

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 081200Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3270

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6294

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI OIL DRILLING IN SINAI

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 3186, (B) TEL AVIV 3164, (C) CAIRO 6140

1. APPRECIATE CHARGE DUNNIGAN'S POINT (REFTEL B) THAT, SO LONG AS PRESENT EGYPTIAN-INSPIRED UNSC DEBATE ON WEST BANK INCIDENTS CONTINUE, ISRAELIS ARE LIKELY TO DISMISS OUT OF HAND ANY EGYPTIAN SUGGESTION OF ISRAELI BAD FAITH REGARDING THEIR DESIRE FOR PEACE. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT, ESPECIALLY WITH PUBLICITY GIVEN TO GOI SIGNING WITH MONCRIEF GROUP, THE ISRAELIS SHOULD AGAIN BE REMINED OF OUR LEGAL POSITION ON THE MATTER, WE DEFER TO DEPARTMENT AND TEL AVIV JUDGEMENT RE OPTIMUM TIMING FOR SUCH AN APPROACH. SILENCE ON OUR PART IN THE FACE OF THIS NEW NEWS COULD BE MISCONTRUED AS ASSENT.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE DETAILS ON WHERE IN SINAI MONCRIEF GROUP IS TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATION AND DRILLING, WE RECALL MONCRIEF EARLIER APPROACHED AMOCO WITH PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT VENTURE IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED SINAI. AT THE TIME AMOCO TURNED DOWN MONCRIEF PROPOSAL, NOTING JOINT VENTURE WAS BEING PROPOSED IN AN
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AREA THAT WAS ALREADY AN AMOCO CONCESSION GRANTED BY GOE. IF NEW GOI/MONCRIEF ARRANGEMENT COVERS

THIS SAME AREA, WE MAY EXPECT NOT ONLY A GOE,
BUT ALSO A AMOCO COMPLAINT. DO NOT KNOW IF
DEPARTMENT HAS HET APPROACHED MONCRIEF TO INDICATE
OUR VIEWS ON THE LEGALITY OF SUCH CONCESSION.
IT THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE, PERHAPS THE TIME
TO DO SO IS NOW. WE WOULD EXPECT GOE TO ASK
WHETHER WE HAVE WARNED MONCRIEF GROUP ON THIS
POINT.

3. ALTHOUGH GOE WILL STOUTLY INSIST THAT ITS
CALL FOR UNSC DEBATE ON WEST BANK INCIDENTS IS
IN NO WAY A VIOLATION OF SINAI II, ISRAELI VIEW
IS UNDERSTANDABLY DIFFERENT. WE APPRECIATE
NEGATIVE ISRAELI REACTION TO EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE.
IN LIGHT EMBASSY TEL AVIV COMMENT (REFTELS) WE
WONDER IF THE ISRAELI INTERFERENCE LAST WEEK
WITH AMOCO OPERATIONS IN RAMADAN FIELD (CAIRO 6158)
WAS ALSO PROMPTED BY SOME SENSE OF PIQUE.

4. IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
HAVING REPEAT OF TEL AVIV 3129 AND STATE 19879.
EILTS

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